United Nations S/2000/523

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 June 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 2 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 2 June 2000, addressed to you from Seyoum Mesfin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fesseha A. **Tessema**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 2 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to bring to your attention the current situation that obtains in the conflict between my country and Eritrea. You will recall that on a number of occasions, my Government has reaffirmed that its only objective in this war was to reverse the Eritrean aggression by peaceful means if possible, or by other means if necessary in exercise of our right of self-defence.

Over the past two years, we had appealed to the international community to put the necessary pressure on the Eritrean authorities to undo their aggression. All our efforts, however, were in vain. The long-standing intransigent position of Eritrea frustrated the peace efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), most recently the proximity talks that were held in Algiers from 29 April to 5 May 2000.

Following the collapse of the proximity talks in Algiers, we recognized that the time had come to exercise our right of self-defence, and we did so. As a result, our objective of reversing the aggression has been fulfilled. As of 31 May 2000, we have verified that all our territories have been cleared from the invading force. As such, as far as Ethiopia is concerned, the war that has been imposed on us by Eritrea is over.

We have not gone beyond our stated objective of liberating our territories. In so doing, we have respected the promise we made to our people and the international community and the principles that we set for ourselves at the beginning of this conflict.

The focus of our attention now is to engage in diplomatic negotiations, as we are doing in Algiers, with the objective of urgently reaching a cessation-of-hostilities agreement. We are also committed to reaching a comprehensive peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm once again Ethiopia's commitment to the peaceful resolution of the Ethiopian-Eritrean crisis. It is our hope that the international community, too, will contribute its full share to assisting the peace process in achieving lasting results.

(*Signed*) Seyoum **Mesfin**
Minister